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Dystocia in a Mare

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CLINICAL MEDICINE

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1 **Anal Atresia in a Calf.** A three day old male Hereford calf was the object of a veterinary call this past summer. The history of the case was that the calf had nursed the first day after parturition, and hadn't nursed since.

Examination revealed a congenital absence of the anal opening. Since there was no evident protrusion of the anal region, it was impossible to determine how far forward the posterior end of the tract was located. A disc of skin was removed from the region, but all efforts to locate the end of the rectum resulted in failure.

As a last resort, a laparotomy was performed in the flank of the animal. It was planned to bring the borders of the bowel through the wound, incise the bowel, and unite the edges of the skin and mucous membrane by interrupted sutures. If successfully performed, this would permit the owner to veal the calf. An uncontrollable hemorrhage, that apparently developed from the exploratory efforts in the anal region, resulted in the death of the animal.

Post-mortem examination revealed that the colon had been arrested in development, ending blindly in front of the pelvis.

—R. C. Wahl, '43

2 **Dystocia in a Mare.** During the first week of June, 1941, Dr. Charles Schmitt, of Dodgeville, Wisconsin, was called to relieve a dystocia in a grade Percheron mare. She had been in labor approximately three hours after a gestation period of about nine months. One forefoot and portions of fetal mem-

branes were protruding from the vulva.

The history was that the mare had been purchased late in August, 1940. The present owner of the mare had a stallion of nondescript breeding on the farm. She had been bred a few days after being brought to the farm. She had shown no symptoms of advancing pregnancy; and two days before the veterinarian was called, the farmer thought that he observed signs of a heat period. An attempt was made to breed her, but she would not accept the stallion. She was then restrained by means of a twitch and forcibly bred. On the second day following the service the dystocia occurred.

Palpation disclosed a fetus in anterior presentation dorso-sacral position with lateral deviation of the head. Mutation was successfully performed by the use of an obstetrical hook. The hook was imbedded in the sublingual region after which the fetus was repelled by pressure on the sternum with the hand. Traction on the hook brought the head into place with very little difficulty. Obstetrical chains were attached to the fore legs, and the fetus was easily delivered.

Examination revealed partial ankylosis

of the joints of the legs. Had this been a fully developed fetus, the operation might have been more difficult. A condition of chronic laminitis was aggravated at this time, but no further report of the case was received.

Conversation with a local stallion owner revealed he had observed two similar cases the previous year. The mares had been purchased and then forcibly bred, only to find that they were pregnant at the time as evidenced by abortion. In this dystocia forcible breeding was a benefit, but it is not usually the case. Careful examination by a competent veterinarian before breeding mares in which history is obscure may minimize such losses.

—J. W. Wilson, '42

3 Lymphatic Leukemia in Bovine.

Leukemia in our domestic animals is not a rare occurrence, although some practitioners have never encountered a single case. Late in August, 1941, five clinical cases of leukemia were encountered by the Iowa State College ambulatory clinic, all in the same herd and within a five month period. The herd consisted of twenty-three females and two males of the milking shorthorn breed.

The cow which prompted the client to call for veterinary service is the one shown in the accompanying cut. Enlargements were first observed by the owner in March, 1941, but at that time no other clinical symptoms were noticed. The cow, 7 years of age, when first observed by the ambulatory clinician, was very weak and emaciated, and showed a rather uniform enlargement of all the superficial lymph nodes. A blood count showed the white cells to number 120,600 per cubic mm., and the red cells 3,640,000 per cubic mm. The differential count showed a high percentage of immature lymphocytes.

A diagnosis of lymphatic leukemia was made, and the client informed of the hopelessness of the case. Upon questioning the client, two more cases of leukemia were found to be present in



Note enlarged prefemoral and prescapular lymph nodes.

the herd. Both were in good flesh, but one showed a much greater enlargement of the superficial lymph nodes. A blood count from this cow showed the white blood cells to number 88,600 per cubic mm., and the red blood cells 4,020,000 per cubic mm. It was also learned that a cow having similar enlargements had died from tympanites two weeks previous to the call, and that another had been sold on the market one month before.

One week following the original call, a post mortem examination was held on the first cow. All the lymphatic tissue showed marked increase in size. The prescapular and prefemoral lymph nodes were about six inches in length, and the spleen was greatly enlarged, being about 30 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. The cut surface showed the splenic corpuscles increased in size up to 2 cm. in diameter. The wall of the rumen and the diaphragm showed marked edema, and were undergoing necrosis, probably due to a circulatory disturbance.

It was noted that of the five cases, two were by the same sire and two were out of the same dam.

—H. E. Held, '42

4 Sulfanilamide in Wound Healing.

A large purebred collie was admitted to the Glendale Small Animal Hospital, Glendale, California, having an ulcerated area circumscribing the left eye.

The history was the following: the dog had belonged to a professional trainer